

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
MAY 8, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Ronald Richard, Georgia Ure; Elwood Johnson; Chief, Fred Stanley; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: Auditor, Pete Stefanski

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 10th Monthly Board Meeting were presented. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Richard seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously. (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The Tax Collector's report was presented for April 2014. The Tax Collector's report reflects 91% collected at this time when usually for this time of year we have collected about 83%. Ms. Bok informed the board that the tax sale has been postponed and no further date has been set. The report reflects the uncollected balance at about \$87,000 but after the tax sale we are at about \$64,000 uncollected at this point in time. Ms. Ure motioned to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report for April 2014 was presented. The board discussed the amount of \$17,408.63 of funds that were transferred out of the Reserve account. It was discussed that this was for the Alarm system in Westerly for a period of 7/1/13 – 10/1/13.

A motion was made by Ms. Ure to take the money received from the sale of the pick up truck with the blown engine in the amount of \$2,500 to be placed in the Reserve account. Mr. Richard and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Ms. Ure inquired about whether or not we may pursue a 50% matching grand fund to buy equipment. Chief Stanley informed the board that this could not be applied to the use of the truck.

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. Discussion: Chairman Holt discussed the budget development of Depot Square Park with funding being taken out of the Special account. It is estimated that approximately \$4,000 will be taken out of the budget when closed out in June. The income will be under Miscellaneous and the money will be transferred into a new budget account. Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for April and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief's report was presented for April 2014. The board discussed the following points of interest:

The pick-up truck has been paid for and put into the Reserve account, the motion for this was voted on this evening.

The brush truck is in operation but requires a new water tank; we will be getting quotes on this in the fall. The total estimated cost for the poly tank, piping and fittings is approximately \$4,500. The district has put in for a Forestry grant for the replacement of the tank but unfortunately the Forestry grants have been cut.

During the Congressional Fire Service conference there were not a lot issues. The Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant and W-2 forms were discussed and are better on behalf of the Fireman's benefits. Use of the 1099 form doesn't get 7.65% benefits, use of the W-2 allows for better benefits.

Executive Director of the RIAFC, Richard Susi has nominated Chief Stanley for the IAFC's Career Fire Chief of the Year Award. Chief Stanley and his family feel it is a great honor to have been selected as a nominee.

The board agreed that a letter from the Board of Directors should be written on behalf of the Chief. They also discussed that other various organizations that the Chief has been involved with, might consider sending a letter on his behalf as well, such as the Ambulance Service, Town Council, Boy Scouts, School Committee, Board of Engineers, State Police, and Town Police and Forestry. A motion was made by Mr. DeBernardo to have the Chairman write a letter from the Board on behalf of the Fire Chief to be sent to IAFC in reference to his nomination of Career Chief of the Year Award sponsored by IAFC and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

The 500-gpm front mount pump on our brush truck has been rebuilt; we needed new gears on the gearbox.

Reevaluations have been done in the community and revaluations in Richmond have dropped by 5% and revaluations in Hopkinton have dropped by 10%.

The Old Stone Mill Apartment Complex for Section 8 housing is having financial problems and has created additional problems for our department. This is the second Management Company and their bills are still not being paid. We have responded to the smell of propane three (3) times and arriving on scene to find the building had to be evacuated. The companies servicing the fire alarm sprinklers, trash removal, and building repairs were informed that they are not being paid. Chief Stanley has been in contact with them, if required inspections are not completed as required by law, we will then have to turn this situation over to the State Fire Marshal's Office and other state agencies for the safety of the tenants.

Chief Stanley is working on obtaining quotes for the 2004 Ford van which will require some rust repair to the body as well as repainting and re-lettering of the vehicle.

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to accept the Chief's Report for April 2014 and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the Chief's report, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Discussion on the Proposed Budget

The board discussed the proposed budget. They reviewed the following:

Heating Oil, Electricity looked okay

Vehicle Fuel was up based on \$3.75 at approximately 3000 gal.

Truck Maintenance will be up

Insurance went up substantially, as accident and sickness will be up in May. In addition, we lost Bradford and Exeter which will not be included as part of the policy, possibly an increase of \$5,500.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield is below last year at \$50,715, rates went down but co-pays are up.

Retirement is up

Loan payments are down

Phone bill went down as 2 lines were dropped

Dispatcher went up

Verizon Income, \$15,000 per year but we may only get half until the tower is up

The salaries were discussed briefly:

Mr. DeBernardo suggested a 2% increase for the year. The changes would be as follows:

Chief, an increase of \$1,324

Chief's Clerk, Tax Collector, an increase of \$580

Maintenance Driver, an increase of \$885

Treasurer, an increase of \$290
District Clerk, an increase of \$50
The total delta would be \$3,129

In addition, FICA, FICA med and retirement would change.

The board then discussed the District Clerk's increase. It was discussed that the role of the District Clerk has changed over the years and due to increased responsibilities and requirements of filing on line with the Secretary of State as well as assisting in writing of letters from the board they agreed that a 2% increase on the current pay scale may not equate to the work being performed. The board discussed increasing the pay grade an additional \$500, and then another suggestion was to increase it by \$1,000. It was agreed that these additional increases would not affect the bottom line of Payroll.

The budget will be amended and reviewed in further depth during the Budget Workshop Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 29th, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Incoming:

1. Letter addressed to International Association of Fire Chiefs, Ms. Courtney Bulger, from Chief, Richard A. Susi, Ret., RIAFC Executive Director in regards to IAFC Fire Chief of the Year Award and nomination of Chief Frederick A. Stanley.
2. Email addressed to Frederick A. Stanley, Chief, Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District, from RI Fire Chiefs, regarding RI Association of Fire Chiefs in DC for Congressional Fire Services Institute activities April 30 – May 2.

PUBLIC FORUM

No Public forum this evening.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Richard. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Richard-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk